

2003

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

2003-04-09 1:23

MUR 4931

SENSITIVE

In the Matter of)
Gary Tabackman)
Meridy Tabackman)
Auto Sound Company, Inc.)
and Howard Honigbaum)

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT #11

I. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

1. Accept two conciliation agreements.
2. Take no further action as to one respondent.

II. INTRODUCTION

This matter arises from the contribution reimbursement scheme orchestrated by Philip Christopher, the Executive Vice President of Audiovox Corporation ("Audiovox") and the President of Audiovox Communications Corporation ("ACC"), an Audiovox subsidiary. The Commission initiated an investigation into this matter after receiving a referral from the Department of Justice with evidence that Christopher, using Audiovox corporate funds, reimbursed Robert Rossano, a distributor of Audiovox products, for two campaign contributions he made at Christopher's request. During the course of the investigation, we discovered that Christopher also authorized the payment of Audiovox funds to reimburse Gary Tabackman, President of GLM Security and Sound, Inc., and Howard Honigbaum, President of Auto Sound, Inc. ("Auto Sound") for campaign contributions they made at Christopher's request.

23.04.406.1573

1 In this report, we recommend that the Commission accept conciliation agreements with
2 Gary Tabackman (Attachment 1), and Howard Honigbaum and Auto Sound (Attachment 2).¹ In
3 addition, we recommend that the Commission take no further action as to Meridy Tabackman,
4 Gary Tabackman's wife.

5 **III. DISCUSSION**

15 **1. Meridy Tabackman**

16 Meridy Tabackman made four of the Tabackmans' 30 campaign contributions.

17 : Tabackmans' counsel argued that Mrs. Tabackman was less aware
18 of, and less culpable for, the violations involving Gary Tabackman. Under all the circumstances,

¹ The Commission previously accepted conciliation agreements with A-Z Auto Sound Systems, Inc. and Joseph DiFazio (General Counsel's Report #8, dated November 8, 2002), Sophia Cotzia (General Counsel's Report #9, dated December 6, 2002), and James Maxim (General Counsel's Report #10, dated December 19, 2002). The Commission also decided to take no further action and close the file as to Kim Macdonald. See GCR #8 at 5.

23.04.406.1574

1 we recommend that the Commission take no further action and close the file as to Meridy
2 Tabackman. We further recommend that an admonishment letter be sent to Meridy Tabackman.

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20 **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 21 1. Accept the attached conciliation agreement with Gary Tabackman.
- 22 2. Accept the attached conciliation agreement with Auto Sound Company, Inc. and
- 23 Howard Honigbaum.
- 24 3. Take no further action as to Meridy Tabackman and send an admonishment letter.

23.04.406.1576

4. Approve the appropriate letters.

Lawrence H. Norton
General Counsel

5/9/03
Date

BY: Rhonda J. Vosdingh
Rhonda J. Vosdingh
Associate General Counsel
for Enforcement

Jonathan A. Bernstein
Jonathan A. Bernstein
Assistant General Counsel

Jack A. Gould
Jack A. Gould
Attorney

Daniel G. Pinegar
Daniel G. Pinegar
Attorney

Other staff assigned: Jim Pawlik
Mary Beth deBeau